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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN JOSE DIVISION

HAIPING SU,

Plaintiff,

v.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND  
SPACE ADMINISTRATION, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 5-09-cv-02838-EJD

**PLAINTIFF'S POST-TRIAL  
PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT AND  
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Pursuant to the Court's Minute Order dated December 11, 2013, plaintiff submits the following Proposed Findings Of Fact And Conclusions Of Law:

**PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT**

Su Was an Accomplished Chinese-American Scientist, Employed by the University of California, and Neither He Nor His Fellow Contractor-Employees Had Access to Sensitive Information.

1. Plaintiff, Dr. Haiping Su ("Su") was born in China and graduated from Zhejiang University with an agricultural degree. (Uncontested Fact ("UF") No. 1; 27:19-21)

1           2.       Su immigrated to the United States in 1986 (UF No. 2; Su, 35:9-10), and is an  
2 American citizen. (UF No. 4; 28:1)

3           3.       In 1991, Su earned a Master's Degree and a Ph.D. in Agronomy/Remote Sensing  
4 from Kansas State University. (UF No. 3; 27:23-25) In 2002, Su began working for Sky  
5 Research, a subcontractor of NASA contractor SAIC, at the Dryden Flight Research Center  
6 ("Dryden"). (UF No. 5; 28:2-4)

7           4.       In 2005, Su moved with his Sky Research colleagues to begin employment with a  
8 different NASA contractor, the Regents of the University of California. (UF No. 6; 28:5-8)

9           5.       The contract program is referred to as the University Affiliated Research Center,  
10 or, "UARC." (UF No. 6; 28:5-8)

11           6.       Since 2005, when the contract was initially awarded, Su has been an employee of  
12 the University of California, providing support to NASA's Earth Science Division. (UF No. 38;  
13 32:13-15)

14           7.       Su was, and is, a highly valued scientist with the UARC. (Hogle, 386:12-14;  
15 Myers, 470:15-22) Su's co-workers believe Su has an excellent work ethic. (Fegan, 355:2-3)

16           8.       Before he was debarred, Su's office was located in the Earth Sciences Division at  
17 NASA Ames Research Center ("NASA Ames"). (UF No. 9; 28:12-13)

18           9.       Steve Hipskind, a NASA civil servant, was the head of the Earth Sciences  
19 Division. (Hipskind, 314:11-15)

20           10.      Working within the Earth Sciences Division, Su was a part of the UARC  
21 subgroup known as the "Earth Sciences Group." (Hogle, 385:12-25)

22           11.      Su's immediate supervisor was, and is, University of California employee Jeff  
23 Myers. (UF No. 8; 28:11; Myers, 461:11-25)

24           12.      In 2008, the organizational hierarchy for Su was: Su, Myers and Bruce Coffland  
25 (Myers's administrative assistant), Larry Hogle, and Bill Berry. (Myers, 496:9-12)

26           13.      Su, Myers, Coffland, Hogle, and Berry were all University of California  
27 employees in 2008. (Myers, 495:4-496:12)

28           14.      While Su was located at NASA Ames, Su only had access to public information.  
(Coffland, 530:6-9)

1           15. Su's UARC team members are also designated as holding "nonsensitive  
2 positions." (Myers, 490:8-13)

3           16. Su's debarment did not change the nature of the data with which he works.  
4 (Myers, 489:21-23)

5           Su Was Subjected to An Extensive FBI Investigation, During Which NASA Was  
6 Informed of Sensitive Investigation Details.

7           17. On March 3, 2006, the FBI sent a memorandum to NASA Headquarters,  
8 requesting a joint investigation of Su with the NASA Ames Counterintelligence Office. (Exh.  
9 62)

10          18. The March 3, 2006, memorandum referred to activities allegedly involving Su  
11 that occurred when he was at Dryden, and then stated there was "a reasonable belief that Su  
12 presents a threat to national security." (Exh. 62)

13          19. NASA counterintelligence officer Reginald Waddell received a copy of the  
14 March, 2006, memorandum. At that time, Su had moved to NASA Ames. (UF Nos. 6, 9; Su,  
15 45:11-46:4; Exh. 1012)

16          20. Waddell gave a copy of the March, 2006, memorandum to Chief of Protective  
17 Services Robert Dolci. (Dolci, 183:18-184:18)

18          21. Dolci later discussed the March, 2006, memorandum with senior management on  
19 a "need to know" basis. (Dolci, 226:19-227:8; 229:3-6) At the time, no steps were taken to  
20 remove Su from the NASA Ames facility, to limit his access to the facility, or to advise his  
21 supervisors that Su was considered to be, or might be, a "security risk." (Dolci, 227:11-15)

22          22. Dolci could only share the fact that the FBI considered Su to be a "security risk"  
23 in 2006 "with people who had the appropriate security clearance and an absolute need to know."  
24 (Dolci, 231:21-232:15)

25          23. At the time, NASA Security did not believe UARC staff had a need to know  
26 about the FBI's report to NASA: "It would have been inappropriate. So unless you have a need  
27 to know, you just don't share any information that's inappropriate to share. It's the Privacy  
28 Act." (Dolci, 229:3-13)

          24. On or about July 5, 2007, Su submitted a badge application pursuant to Homeland  
Security Presidential Directive 12 ("HSPD-12"). (Su, 61:20-23)

1           25.     The badge application included a questionnaire called “e-QIP.” Dolci was  
2 responsible for ensuring compliance with HSPD-12. (Dolci, 164:5-21)

3           26.     According to Dolci, Su’s e-QIP application was “information that was intended to  
4 be used by the FBI to conduct their investigation.” It had “nothing to do with whether or not we  
5 were going to issue a badge.” (Dolci, 265:16-25)

6           27.     Dolci testified that the FBI was “using whatever means they could to get  
7 information to get Su to respond to their questions.” (Dolci, 267:21-22)

8           28.     During the subsequent FBI interviews, Su was asked questions directly out of his  
9 HSPD-12 application. (Su, 83:6-14)

10           During the FBI Investigation, the Office of Personnel Management Reported a “Red  
11 Flag” to NASA.

12           29.     NASA submits e-QIP forms to the Office of Personnel Management (“OPM”),  
13 which determines “if there [is] something in an individual’s background that we should be  
14 concerned about.” (Dolci, 207:12-21)

15           30.     On July 6, 2007, Su’s HSPD-12 application was sent to the Office of Personnel  
16 Management (“OPM”) for a National Agency Check Inquiry. (Dolci, 205:20-24; Exh. 39)

17           31.     According to Dolci, “in this case, a red flag came up which said that there was an  
18 investigation being conducted.” (Dolci, 267:18-268:18)

19           32.     With the results communicated to NASA, OPM closed the badging investigation  
20 on March 14, 2008. (Dolci, 269:21-24; Exh. 22)

21           33.     Dolci summarized: “OPM provided us their information and the flag came up.”  
22 (Dolci, 270:2-3)

23           Su Cooperated with the FBI’s Investigation and Polygraph Examination.

24           34.     In February, 2008, Su was contacted by an FBI agent named Sherman Kwok who  
25 said he wanted to meet him regarding the HSPD-12 badge application. (UF No. 24; Su, 71:20-  
26 72:6)

27           35.     Su met with Kwok and Waddell at NASA Ames on February 14, 2008. (UF No.  
28 24; 30:8-9) At the February 14, 2008, meeting, Kwok discussed with Su his e-QIP  
questionnaire. (Su, 71:20-72:2; 83:6-12)

          36.     On March 12, 2008, Su had a follow-up interview with Kwok and Waddell. (UF  
No. 24; 30:8-9)

1           37.     At the March 12, 2008, interview, Su agreed to take a polygraph examination. On  
2 March 21, 2008, Su took the polygraph examination. (UF No. 25; 30:10-11)

3           38.     On April 11, 2008, Su had a final meeting with Kwok and Waddell. (Su, 91:4-8)

4           On May 22, 2008, the FBI Sent a Memorandum to NASA, Reporting the Results of the  
5 Su Investigation; the Results of the Investigation Were Communicated to Chief of  
6 Security Robert Dolci and NASA Division Chief Stephen Hipskind.

7           39.     On May 22, 2008, the FBI sent a memorandum about Su to NASA headquarters.  
8 (UF No. 12; 28:18-19; Exh. 1015)

9           40.     The May, 2008, memorandum stated “[t]he results of this [polygraph]  
10 examination are indicative of deception.” (UF No. 13; 28:20-21)

11           41.     The May, 2008, memorandum also discussed an alleged incident in October,  
12 2005, when Su was working at Dryden. (Exh. 1015)

13           42.     The May, 2008, memorandum further stated Su “was given several opportunities  
14 to clarify, but he further denied any undisclosed contacts with foreign nationals seeking his  
15 professional assistance.” (UF No. 14; 28:22-29:1)

16           43.     The May, 2008, memorandum also stated “there is a reasonable belief that Su  
17 may present a threat to national security.” (UF No. 15; 29:2-4)

18           44.     The May, 2008, memorandum recommended “that NASA independently consider  
19 taking precautionary measures regarding Su’s access to the U.S. Government facility and  
20 information in order to address existing security concerns that Su has been unwilling to clarify.”  
21 (UF No. 16; 29:5-9)

22           45.     Dolci first saw the May, 2008, memorandum on May 28, 2008. (Dolci, 218:17-  
23 220:4) However, Dolci waited over three weeks after getting the FBI memorandum before he  
24 debarred Su. (Dolci, 225:19-23)

25           46.     Dolci had authority to revoke Su’s access without the approval of the Center  
26 Director. (Dolci, 225:1-18)

27           47.     Dolci “weighed the threat, the risk, the probability that additional harm could be  
28 done over a couple week period as compared to all of the years that Su worked out there and  
decided it could wait until the Center Director got back.” (Dolci, 226:5-10)

          48.     Dolci ultimately revoked Su’s access based on a determination that “his continued  
presence on NASA property constitutes a security risk.” (Dolci, 235:5-12; Exh. 1010)

1           49. According to Dolci, his decision was based on information from the FBI and  
2 Waddell, including his review of various FBI memoranda, and specifically the May 22, 2008,  
3 memorandum from the FBI. (Dolci, 191:3-17)

4           50. Following Su's debarment, Stephen Hipskind, the Chief of the Earth Sciences  
5 Division at NASA Ames, advised Pete Worden, the NASA Ames Center Director, that "the  
6 entire ASTL staff [Airborne Science Technology Lab where the plaintiff worked] is extremely  
7 unsettled and upset over this incident." (UF No. 33; 31:12-18)

8           51. Dolci thought that Hipskind's compassion for his employees was not going to  
9 help the situation, and that it would be counterproductive. Dolci said Hipskind was "wearing his  
10 good guy hat and not his government hat" because scientists sometimes lack appreciation of the  
11 need for security. (Dolci, 244:14-246:3)

12           52. Hipskind received 24-hour security clearance so he could be briefed on Su's case.  
13 Hipskind was given clearance to help allay scientists' anxiety and fears. (Hipskind, 336:20-25)

14           53. In his 30 years at NASA Ames, Hipskind had never heard of anyone getting a  
15 similar clearance. (Hipskind, 339:5-12) Dolci also knew of no other case where interim  
16 clearance was granted to provide access to classified information about someone at NASA  
17 Ames; it was a "case of first impression" to Dolci. (Dolci, 261:15-262:8)

18           54. Once he was provided with security clearance, Hipskind was told that (1) the FBI  
19 conducted the investigation; (2) the FBI determined that Su was a "security risk;" (3) Dolci had  
20 received a memorandum from the FBI; and (4) Su's polygraph test showed deception. (Dolci,  
21 248:12-23)

22           55. According to Hipskind, as part of his review of the file, he was shown an  
23 unredacted version of the FBI's May 22, 2008, memorandum. (Hipskind, 344:9-16) Hipskind  
24 was told at the interim security briefing that he could not tell the staff anything about the May  
25 22, 2008, FBI memorandum, nor any of the details in the document. (Hipskind, 346:16-25)

26           Before He Was Debarred, Su Discussed the Investigation Only On a Limited Basis, and  
27           Only With His Supervisors.

28           56. The Government contends that Su, rather than NASA officials, made at least  
some of the disclosures at issue. The Court, however, finds that before Su was debarred, he  
discussed the investigation only on a limited basis, and only with certain people. He did not  
otherwise communicate his private information or otherwise waive his reasonable expectation of

1 privacy.

2 57. At trial, no UARC staff member recalled hearing Su talk about the FBI  
3 investigation before the debarment. Sophie Fegan testified Su never mentioned being  
4 interviewed. (Fegan, 556:7-11) Diane Gribshaw similarly testified Su did not discuss the  
5 investigation or polygraph at all before his debarment. (Gribshaw, 700:7-15) Rose Dominguez  
6 testified Su never mentioned anything to her about an interview or polygraph. (Dominguez,  
7 631:2-10) Grant testified that he was “tremendously” surprised Su had been investigated—a  
8 revelation he first heard at the July 3, 2008, meeting held by NASA Security. (Grant, 709:17-22;  
9 720:3-11)

10 58. On a limited basis, Su addressed with his UARC supervisors the fact that he was  
11 being questioned. Larry Hogle first found out about the investigation by coincidence, and due to  
12 his role within UARC. Hogle was the associate director of UARC during the investigation  
13 period. In his managerial role, he provided supervision and coordination of UARC employees.  
14 (Hogle, 381:8-382:16) He was also involved in making sure every person on the UARC contract  
15 was able to get an HSPD-12 badge. (Hogle, 382:17-19; 383:6-15)

16 59. Su’s badge was delayed compared to the other UARC employees, and Hogle was  
17 concerned about what was happening. (Hogle, 388:19-20; 389:13-15) Hogle testified that, once  
18 he realized the badge was delayed, “that’s when I first found out that there had been an ongoing  
19 investigation that I had not been aware of before.” (Hogle, 388:21-22)

20 60. According to Hogle, Su may have discussed the FBI interviews a total of three  
21 times. (Hogle, 387:22-23) During these discussions, Su said he had no idea what the  
22 investigation was about. (Hogle, 388:24-389:1)

23 61. Before he was debarred, Su advised Myers, his immediate supervisor, that he was  
24 being investigated by the FBI. (Myers, 499:1-3) Su’s other supervisor, Coffland, also became  
25 aware Su was being interviewed by the FBI, but Coffland “can’t say” and “can only assume” Su  
26 told him. (Coffland, 544:3-11)

27 62. Although Coffland spoke with Su about the existence of the FBI investigation,  
28 they did not have any substantive conversations. (Coffland, 519:5-14; 544:22-24)

63. NASA Security, rather than Su, was the source for information about the  
investigation. Coffland recalls there was “generally a discussion that went throughout our



1 facility there and with other people and between NASA people.” (Coffland, 544:7-11; 546:1-4).  
2 Hogle, who had known Dolci for many years (Hogle, 408:16-17), was able to get further  
3 information about the investigation, and discussed the eventual debarment with Myers “to keep  
4 me [Myers] informed of one of our star employees that we were probably losing.” (Myers,  
5 503:4-6)

6 64. Myers learned from Hogle and Coffland that Su had undergone a polygraph  
7 exam. (Myers, 499:15-17)

8 65. While Su and Coffland spoke about the polygraph examination, Su did not  
9 discuss it in detail. (Coffland, 519:5-14; 544:22-24)

10 Su Was Escorted From the Facility; His Badge Was Returned, and He Was No Longer  
11 Deemed a Security Threat Following Debarment.

12 66. Su was debarred and escorted out of NASA Ames on June 24, 2008. (UF No. 17;  
13 29:10-11)

14 67. Hogle requested that he be present when Su was notified of the debarment.  
15 (Hogle, 394:5-8) Hogle and NASA Security alerted Jeff Myers that Su would be debarred.  
16 (Myers, 474:13-21)

17 68. Myers testified he was in a state of “shock or disbelief” when he was told Su  
18 would be debarred. (Myers, 477:13-14)

19 69. Myers was told by NASA Security officer Ken Silverman that Su was losing his  
20 access privileges because NASA Security “determined he’s a security risk,” and Su had been  
21 “declared a security risk.” (Myers, 476:16-17; 500:6-11)

22 70. Hogle, Myers, Silverman, and another security official went to Su’s office.  
23 (Hogle, 394:17-21) NASA Security told Su he was debarred, and gave him the debarment letter.  
24 (Hogle, 394:22-25) Su looked shocked. (Hogle, 395:4-6) He was in a “state of disbelief” when  
25 he was told he was debarred. (Myers, 477:24-25; Gribshaw, 696:8)

26 71. Some of the UARC employees saw Su escorted from the facility, and their  
27 reaction to Su’s debarment was alarm and discontent. (Coffland, 528:5-10) Myers did not speak  
28 with anyone coming out of their office about what was happening to Su at the time he was  
escorted from the premises. (Coffland, 547:8-12) Myers did not address anyone at the time of  
the occurrence about what happened after the debarment. (Coffland, 529:3-15)\



After Su's Debarment, His Supervisors Did Not Pass Along Investigation Details to Su's Co-workers.

72. The Government argues Su's supervisors were responsible for passing private information along to Su's coworkers. The Court is not persuaded by the Government's contention.

73. NASA Security, and not UARC officials, provided Su's personal information directly to UARC staff, principally at a July 3, 2008, meeting discussed below. Indeed, UARC was not a party to the FBI investigation, and investigatory information about Su ultimately originated from NASA.

74. Myers testified he did not take any action about employees' concerns regarding Su. (Myers, 479:19-20) Myers testified he may have told a "small number" of unidentified individuals that Su had been determined a security risk, i.e., information he learned from Silverman. (Myers, 476:14-17; 478:23-25; 480:1-7; 500:6-11) Myers did not formally meet with UARC staff about the debarment. (Myers, 480:1-7) Moreover, Gribshaw, Grant, and Fegan testified that Dolci's July 3, 2008, meeting was the first time they heard Su had been deemed a "security risk." (Fegan, 561:4-7; 565:12-566:10; Gribshaw, 696:6-16; 697:14-16; 700:7-25; Grant, 709:19-22)

After Debarment, Su Refrained from Discussing the Substance of the Investigation and Polygraph Examination, and Maintained That He Had No Idea What the Investigation Was About.

75. The Court finds Su refrained from discussing details of the investigation with his coworkers following his debarment.

76. After Su was debarred, Myers had lunch with Su. (Myers, 508:12-14) Myers asked Su if he knew what was going on, and Su said he did not know. (Myers, 508:15-17) At some point after the debarment, at a group meet-up, Su told the group that he did not know what happened to get himself debarred. (Gribshaw, 702:22-703-25) "Su said that he didn't understand why he—what had happened. He didn't know what was going on." (Gribshaw, 700:5-6) This statement was contrary to what Dolci had told people, i.e., that Su knew why he had been debarred. (See Dominguez, 635:2-6; 638:17-25; Hogle, 392:3-5; 414:9-10)

On July 3, 2008, Dolci and Hipskind Held a Meeting to Justify Su's Debarment to His Colleagues.

1           77.     On July 3, 2008, Dolci convened a meeting with Su's UARC co-workers and  
2 NASA colleagues in the Earth Sciences Division. (UF No. 18; 29:12-14) Steve Hipskind and  
3 Dolci were present. (Myers, 481:5-12) The meeting was convened by the Earth Sciences  
4 Division to give some understanding of the debarment and the effect it had. (Coffland, 520:11-  
5 15) Hogle believes Hipskind requested that Dolci have the meeting, "civil servant to civil  
6 servant." (Hogle, 417:5-7) There is no evidence the meeting was motivated by any security  
7 concerns. (*See* Dolci, 253:17-254:19 ("I did not believe that Su posed a threat once he was  
8 debarred."); Silverman, 691:4-8 (Silverman had no concern that Su might try to re-enter the  
NASA Ames premises after his badge was revoked))

9           78.     The meeting was held in the Earth Sciences Conference Room in Building 245 at  
10 Ames. (Grant, 709:23-710:1; Myers, 480:19-20; Coffland, 519:21-23) The attendees included  
11 people from "beyond UARC." (Myers, 480:10-15)

12           79.     Estimates of the number of people present vary. Hogle estimated about 25 to 30  
13 people attended. (Hogle, 399:6-7) Fegan thought there were about 15 UARC people total.  
14 (Fegan, 558:19-559:16) Dominguez testified that approximately 15 people attended.  
15 (Dominguez, 633:18-22) Myers thought there were "probably 30 to 50 people there." (Myers,  
16 481:1-2) Coffland thought a "couple dozen people" were present at the Dolci meeting.  
17 (Coffland, 519:24-25)

18           80.     At the meeting, Dolci conveyed that there were sound reasons for the debarment.  
19 (Coffland, 520:16-18) Dolci was trying to assure the group that NASA had "grounds for what  
20 they did." (Coffland, 521:5-6) The tone in the meeting among the listeners was "disbelief,"  
21 whereas Dolci and Hipskind showed "resolve." (Grant, 722:22-723:12) Dolci acknowledged the  
group's loyalty to Su. (Grant, 721:25-722:3)

22           81.     The meeting lasted between half an hour to an hour. (Grant, 740:18-19; Hipskind,  
23 351:1-2) The evidence shows that, at some point during the meeting, Dolci and Hipskind  
24 compromised Su's privacy in order to justify Su's debarment.

25           82.     Su's UARC co-worker, Patrick Grant, kept a day timer in 2008 (Grant, 710:21-  
26 22), and had been keeping one for almost 20 years. (Grant, 710:23-711:4; 727:18-20) Grant  
27 attended the July 3, 2008, Dolci meeting, and his notes from the meeting are marked as Exh. 139.  
28 (Grant, 712:13-15; 712:19-24; 713:16-25) The notes of Exh. 139 were written entirely during

1 the meeting. (Grant, 713:4-7) They were taken carefully, and all at once. (Grant, 743:8-24;  
 2 744:10-19) Grant paid close attention during the meeting, as it was “eye opening.” (Grant,  
 3 720:1-2) Grant testified Dolci stated all of the items below the name of “Robert Dolci” on his  
 4 day timer page. (Grant, 714:19-23)

5 The July 3, 2008, Meeting Was Not for Security Purposes, And It Was Held to Justify  
 6 Su’s Treatment.

7 83. The evidence demonstrates NASA did not view Su as a security threat once his  
 8 badge was returned on the day of his debarment. (Dolci, 253:24-254:19) NASA, however, felt  
 9 pressure to address the debarment with Su’s co-workers, because they were shocked, surprised,  
 10 and angry. (Hogle, 398:15-16) Scientists, according to Dolci, do not always have a good  
 11 appreciation for the value of Protective Services. (Dolci, 246:1-3) Su was “highly respected.”  
 12 “It’s really hard to believe that there could be something going on that would be a detriment to  
 13 the government. You look at the individual. And you give that individual the benefit of the  
 14 doubt, and you just find it hard to believe.” (Dolci, 298:8-299:17) Dolci was clear at trial that  
 15 the July 3, 2008, meeting had to do with the concerns raised about Su by his co-workers. “That’s  
 16 why they were there and that was what was in [Hipskind’s] email.” (Dolci, 256:21-257:16)

17 84. Although Su’s co-workers were concerned about Su’s debarment, the Court  
 18 credits the testimony of Su’s supervisor, Jeff Myers, who testified that the debarment was not  
 19 impacting the ability of the UARC employees to complete their job responsibilities. (Myers,  
 20 502:21-23) Thus, the Court concludes the reason for the meeting was contractor-employees’  
 21 general concerns, rather than security issues or serious productivity concerns.

22 When the Dolci Meeting Took Place, Many of Su’s Co-workers Had Not Heard About  
 23 the “Security Risk” Determination.

24 85. The Government contends that by the time of the Dolci meeting, Su’s private  
 25 information had already been disseminated. The Court does not adopt this view. Many of Su’s  
 26 co-workers were not aware of the “security risk” determination until Dolci told them at the July  
 27 3, 2008, meeting.

28 86. Diane Gribshaw, who did not socialize with Su, was surprised to hear Su referred  
 to as “a security risk.” (Gribshaw, 697:14-16) Also, Su did not discuss the investigation or  
 polygraph or “security risk” designation with Gribshaw. (Gribshaw, 700:7-15) The meeting

1 with Dolci was the first occasion Gribshaw came to learn Su had been investigated by either  
2 NASA or the FBI. (Gribshaw, 700:22-25)

3 87. Patrick Grant, who worked in a different building from Su and did not socialize  
4 with him (Grant, 707:25-708:4; 708:20-24), learned of Su's debarment for the first time at the  
5 Dolci meeting. (Grant, 709:17-22) Grant was "tremendously" surprised by the information he  
6 heard in the Dolci meeting. (Grant, 720:3-11; 720:19-21)

7 88. Sophie Fegan's past recollection recorded on February, 2011, was admitted into  
8 evidence as follows: "Question: Why do you think Su's access to NASA Ames was revoked?  
9 Answer: Well, he was a security risk. Question: And what is the basis for that opinion? Answer:  
10 That's what, that's what the guy at – the NASA security guy told us."<sup>1</sup> (Fegan, 565:12-566:10)

11 Defendant Violated Su's Privacy in No Less Than Eight (8) Instances.

12 89. The Court finds that that, in no less than eight (8) instances, the Government  
13 improperly discussed with Su's coworkers and employer private details regarding the federal  
14 investigation.

15 A. Breach Number 1: Before Su Was Debarred, NASA Security Informed Su's University  
16 of California Supervisor That He Was Allegedly Not Truthful During the  
17 Investigation.

18 90. The Court finds that, before Su was debarred, NASA Security informed Su's  
19 employer and supervisor that he was not being truthful during the FBI's investigation.

20 91. The FBI reported to NASA, in classified memoranda, that Su was allegedly not  
21 truthful during the investigation. (UF No. 16 (according to the May 22, 2008, memorandum, Su  
22 was allegedly "unwilling to clarify" security concerns); UF No. 13 (memorandum stated the  
23 polygraph results "are indicative of deception"))

24 92. This information was then communicated from NASA to UARC supervisor Larry  
25 Hogle. Hogle spoke with Dolci "at least two or three times prior to the debarment." (Hogle,  
26 390:22-24) Dolci told Hogle "there was a question being asked of Su, that all he needed to do  
27 was answer it. And it had been asked in three different ways, and he was not answering the  
28 question." (Hogle, 391:8-11) Dolci told Hogle they wanted Su to answer the question truthfully.  
(Hogle, 392:6-8)

93. Dolci also told Hogle that Su knew what this was about. (Hogle, 392:3-5)

<sup>1</sup> During cross-examination at trial, Fegan was confused as to where she heard security risk, from whom, and when.

1           94.     According to Hogle, Dolci said, “Su knew about it and all they wanted him [Su]  
2 to do was to answer truthfully a particular question.” (Hogle, 414:9-11)

3           *B. Breach Number 2: The Government Informed Su’s Employer and Supervisor, Larry*  
4           *Hogle, That Su Was an Alleged “Security Risk.”*

5           95.     The Court finds the Government informed Su’s employer and supervisor Su was a  
6 “security risk.”

7           96.     On the morning of the debarment, Ken Silverman gave Larry Hogle a copy of the  
8 debarment letter addressed to Su. (Hogle, 393:4-7; Exh. 1010) The letter included a statement  
9 that Su had been deemed a “security risk.” (Exh. 1010) The letter is not marked “private” or  
10 “confidential,” and Hogle does not recall being told to keep the letter confidential. (Hogle,  
11 393:19-23)

12           97.     Dolci testified he complied with section 4.9.6.2 of NASA Security Program  
13 Procedural Requirements (“NPR”) 1600.1, which states “adverse information shall not be  
14 disclosed to the individual’s employer since it could affect the individual’s employment and  
15 possibly subject NASA to legal liability.” Dolci asserted he did not provide information that  
16 Hogle did not already know. (Dolci, 278:15-23) However, Hogle testified that, before  
17 Silverman gave him the debarment letter, Hogle had no reason to believe Su allegedly  
18 represented a “security risk.” (Hogle, 393:15-18) Indeed, until he was told otherwise, Hogle  
19 thought the investigation had concluded months earlier. (Hogle, 392:11-13)

20           98.     After the debarment, both Dolci and Silverman told Hogle the debarment was  
21 because of the FBI investigation. (Hogle, 397:18-20; 398:7-9)

22           *C. Breach Number 3: Post-Debarment Comments to Coffland Regarding Su’s Polygraph*  
23           *Performance.*

24           99.     The Court finds that, following Su’s debarments, Dolci told UARC’s Coffland  
25 that Su had failed his polygraph test.

26           100.    After Su was debarred, his UARC colleagues were puzzled, confused, and angry.  
27 (Myers, 502:2-9) They found Su’s debarment unexpected, abrupt, and arbitrary. (Myers,  
28 502:10-15) Su’s co-workers had great concern for Su personally and professionally and wanted  
to see him overcome the situation. (Coffland, 525:15-17) The Government concedes it  
attempted to deal with these concerns by having Su’s co-workers briefed by NASA security and  
Steve Hipskind, who had reviewed the FBI investigation file.

101. After the debarment, Dolci discussed the polygraph results with Coffland. (Coffland, 525:25-526:1) Dolci told Coffland Su had a particular problem with the examination. (Coffland, 526:9-12) Su ultimately heard about this accusation from Myers, post-debarment, when Myers told Su about his performance on the polygraph test. (Su, 106:5-107:22)

*D. Breach Number 4: The Government's Statements That the FBI Deemed Su a Security Risk, His Debarment Was Due to a Security Breach, He Was a Risk to National Security, Su Knew Why He Was Debarred, and Details About the FBI Investigation, Including That the Findings Against Su Were Allegedly "Very, Very Bad."*

102. The Court further finds that NASA told Su's co-workers details about the federal investigation, including allegations that Su is a security risk, and that the findings against Su were "very, very bad."

103. At the July 3, 2008, meeting, Dolci reported to Su's co-workers that there were security concerns about Su. (Hogle, 402:23-25; Grant, 716:16-24; Myers, 481:14-15) Dolci referenced national security, and the fact that the FBI conducted an investigation of Su. (Hogle, 402:17-22) Dolci mentioned that the debarment was based on the investigation of Su, and the determination Su was a security risk. (Coffland, 521:7-14)

104. A "Memorandum from FBI" was mentioned at the meeting, as recorded in Grant's notes. (Exh. 137) Grant drew a line from Memorandum from FBI to "Security Risk" because the statements were made in connection with each other. (Grant, 717:3-5) At trial, Dolci testified the decision to debar Su was based on the May 22, 2008, memorandum from the FBI. (Dolci, 266:1-9; Exh. 1010)

105. The evidence shows that Dolci told the assembly there had been an extensive investigation of Su. (Gribshaw, 697:20-23) Witnesses report Dolci made references to the FBI as involved in the investigation. (*See, e.g.*, Gribshaw, 698:7-14)<sup>2</sup> Based on what Dolci said, Gribshaw came away with an opinion that the investigation of Su was "extensive and deep and highly classified." (Gribshaw, 698:24-699:2)

106. According to Gribshaw, Dolci said the "Center Director" had "reviewed the information and made the decision." (Gribshaw, 698:2-9) This detail is also found in the debarment letter (Exh. 1010) and referenced in Grant's notes (Exh. 139). Dolci also offered the following information in further "explanation to people [as to] why Haiping Su was being

<sup>2</sup> Hogle asked Dolci why Su had been debarred, and Dolci said it was the result of an FBI investigation. (Hogle, 407:3-6)



1 removed.” “Memorandum from FBI,” “Lou Braxton,” and “Center Director.” (Grant, 717:3-22;  
2 see Exh. 12, identifying Lew Braxton in 2007 as “Director, Center Operations”)

3 107. Mr. Dolci said that there were “recommendations made by the FBI” regarding Su.  
4 (Dominguez, 647:5-7) This statement discloses classified information from the May 22, 2008,  
5 memorandum, which “recommended” that NASA take action to limit Su’s access to NASA  
6 Ames. (Exh. 1015)

7 108. Dolci also stated at this meeting that Su allegedly knew the reason for his  
8 debarment. (Dominguez, 635:2-6) Multiple witnesses report hearing Dolci say this (Hogle,  
9 392:3-5; 414:9-11), despite Dolci’s testimony that Su was obviously upset and kept wondering  
10 “what was going on and why” when Su called Dolci after the debarment. (Dolci, 242:8-243:12)

11 109. Hipskind said at the conclusion of the meeting that he “had been given access to  
12 material” to which UARC personnel had not been given access and that Hipskind understood  
13 why the action was taken. (Hogle, 399:10-15)

14 110. Hipskind said he received interim security clearance, and reviewed material and  
15 felt the debarment was justified. (Coffland, 522:10-15) Hogle understood the information  
16 provided to Hipskind “apparently required a secret or top secret clearance to be able to review  
17 them.” (Hogle, 421:22-24) Hipskind said he was convinced Su was a security risk. (Coffland,  
18 527:20-24)

19 111. Grant recalls Hipskind spoke at the Dolci meeting and said that he read Su’s file  
20 and it is “very, very bad.” (Grant, 720:19-721:9) The reaction to Hipskind’s statement was  
21 “dead silence.” (Hogle, 399:16-17)

22 *E. Breach Number 5: The Government’s Statements That Su Breached Security*  
23 *or “Something Happened” at Su’s Previous Employment.*

24 112. The Court also finds that NASA suggested to Su’s coworkers that Su breached  
25 security at his previous employment.

26 113. Whether Su posed a threat to security based on conduct that occurred before Su  
27 began working at NASA Ames is classified information. (Waddell, 606:19-25) However, Dolci  
28 believes he told some people that Su was debarred based on conduct that occurred before Su  
came to NASA Ames, and this information came either from Waddell or an FBI memorandum.  
(Dolci, 217:11-218:10)



114. Dolci told Su's co-workers that the debarment decision "had nothing to do with work at Ames." (Myers, 481:14-16) Dolci said that the debarment had to do with Su's "prior career." (Myers, 481:21-22) Dolci said that Su was being dismissed due to fallout from his previous employment (i.e., Dryden), which had to do with a classified position or breach of security. (Grant, 722:18-21; 739:1-19) Dolci admitted at trial he told people that to avoid Su's fate, you need to be aware of issues that come up in your I.T. security training "that might be construed as a breach in security." (Dolci, 251:14-252:13; 256:21-257:5)

*F. Breach Number 6: The Government's Accusations That Su Was Associated with Questionable Foreign Contacts or Took Money from a Foreign Government and Then Denied It.*

115. The Court further finds NASA improperly suggested to Su's coworkers that he took money from a foreign government and then denied it.

116. From the May 22, 2008, memorandum (Exh. 1015), Dolci understood one of the reasons the FBI recommended Su be treated as a security risk was their belief that he had not fully disclosed his contacts with foreign nationals. (Dolci, 286:11-287:1; 289:10-22)

117. At the very end of the July 3, 2008, meeting, either Hipkind or Dolci said, "Don't accept money from a foreign government and then deny it" in response to the question "how do I know that I'm not going to be debarred myself?" (Myers, 482:5-14) This was "the first piece of information that we had had based on, you know, regarding any rationale behind debarment." (Myers, 509:14-16) Myers was dismayed to hear it. (Myers, 509:17-18) Coffland recalls Hipkind making the statement, but thinks it was made at a separate meeting, less than one month after the July 3, 2008, meeting. (Coffland, 524:2-6) At that meeting, Hipkind said: "Don't take money from a foreign government and then deny it." (Coffland, 524:14-19) Dolci recalls hearing Hipkind say something that surprised him, but Dolci does not recall what that statement was. (Dolci, 300:25-301:14)

118. Hipkind remembers Dolci saying something to the effect that people should not take money from another government and then deny it. (Hipkind, 352:6-11) Hipkind considered it to be a hypothetical example—although Dolci did not give any other examples. (Hipkind, 352:1-19) Myers also did not recall any other "hypothetical questions" offered at the July 3, 2008, meeting. (Myers, 511:14-16) According to Coffland, the statement regarding money from a foreign government was a summary of what transpired with Su. (Coffland,

524:21-22) The statement was memorable to Coffland, who had concern for Su personally and professionally, and thought the foreign government reference “probably wasn’t appropriate.” (Coffland, 525:6-9)

119. Sophie Fegan later asked Su’s wife, Sharyn Su, if they took government money. (Sharyn Su, 761:9-11) According to Myers, after the July 3, 2008, meeting, it was understood as a fact that Su was debarred because he had received money from a foreign government and then hid it. (Myers, 507:16-22) Fegan told Sharyn Su that they had a meeting and the NASA officials were telling them these things. (Su, 117:25-119:1; Sharyn Su, 761:9-19)

*G. Breach Number 7: The Government’s Statement Regarding a “FISA Regulation”*

120. The Court finds the Government, in justifying the debarment to Su’s coworkers, discussed a “FISA regulation” and Su’s purported contact with “foreign nationals.”

121. The evidence shows that Dolci also referenced a “FISA regulation” as part of his presentation. (Grant, 719:12-20) Grant’s notes in this regard are corroborated by Dominguez, who testified either Dolci or Hipskind commented that Su’s debarment was related to foreign nationals or foreign internationals. (Dominguez, 644:4-9; 660:4-10) “FISA” apparently referred to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, 50 U.S.C. § 1801, *et al.*

122. The Court believes that defendant’s references to FISA and foreign contacts, in discussions of the basis for Su’s debarment, further invaded Su’s privacy.

*H. Breach Number 8: The Government’s Statements Regarding Su’s Badge and Background Check.*

123. The Court finds the Government discussed with Su’s coworkers the results of his badge application and background check.

124. At the July 3, 2008, meeting Dolci said the meeting was held as a result of things that occurred relating to Su’s HSPD-12 badging process. (Dominguez, 647:1-4; Grant, 718:1-17) Dolci admitted he may have discussed the HSPD-12 program at the July 3, 2008, meeting, but it was not his intent to do so. He does not believe he discussed the OPM. (Dolci, 216:6-15)

125. Su’s e-QIP application form had been sent to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for a National Agency Check Inquiry in July 2007. (Dolci, 205:20-24; Exh. 39) OPM is responsible for all personnel and civil service that work for the government. NASA submits e-QIP forms to the OPM, which determines “if there [is] something in an individual’s

background that we should be concerned about.” (Dolci, 207:12-21) Grant’s notes literally read: “HSPD-12 Office of Personnel Management – OPM file database.” (Exh. 139) Corroborating Grant’s notes, Dolci testified, “[I]n this case, a red flag came up which said that there was an investigation being conducted.” (Dolci, 267:18-268:18)

## PROPOSED CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

### Jurisdiction

126. Plaintiff’s lawsuit is for breaches of the California constitutional right to privacy. Cal. Const., art. 1, § 1.

127. The Federal Tort Claims Act (“FTCA”), Title 28, Section 1346 of the United States Code, provides this Court jurisdiction to hear:

claims against the United States, for money damages . . . caused by the negligent or wrongful act or omission . . . under circumstances where the United States, if a private person, would be liable to the claimant in accordance with the law of the place where the act or omission occurred.

128. The elements of plaintiff’s California constitutional privacy claim are: “(1) a legally protected privacy interest; (2) a reasonable expectation of privacy in the circumstances; and (3) conduct by defendant constituting a serious invasion of privacy.” *Hill v. Nat’l Collegiate Athletic Assn.*, 7 Cal. 4th 1, 39-40 (1994).

129. The Court finds, under the particular facts of this case, the gravamen of plaintiff’s privacy claim does not implicate an exception to the FTCA. See 28 USC § 2680 (h); *Meier v. United States*, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 93138, 19-21 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 22, 2006); see *Doe v. United States*, 83 F. Supp. 2d 833, 838-39 (S.D. Tex. 2000) (plaintiff may allege conduct in which some aspect is barred because it arises out of an excepted tort, and other aspects that are not barred because it does not arise out of an excepted tort); Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Defendants’ Motion for Summary Judgment, p. 15:14-19:20.

130. The Court therefore finds it has jurisdiction to hear plaintiff’s state privacy claim pursuant to the FTCA.

### The United States Violated Su’s State Constitutional Right to Privacy.

131. Plaintiff’s lawsuit is based on the California constitutional right to privacy. Cal. Const., art. 1, § 1. The elements of the constitutional privacy claim are: “(1) a legally protected

1 privacy interest; (2) a reasonable expectation of privacy in the circumstances; and (3) conduct by  
 2 defendant constituting a serious invasion of privacy.” *Hill v. Nat’l Collegiate Athletic Assn.*, 7  
 3 Cal.4th 1, 39-40 (1994).

4 A. *Su Had Legally Protected Privacy Interests In the Matters Disclosed By the*  
*Government.*

5 132. The first essential element of a state constitutional cause of action for invasion of  
 6 privacy is the identification of a specific, legally protected privacy interest. This is a question of  
 7 law that depends on social norms, common law developments, constitutional development,  
 8 statutory enactment, and the ballot arguments for the Privacy Initiative. *See Hill, supra*, 7  
 9 Cal.4th at 35–36.

10 133. As a general matter, the state privacy protections are broader than those of federal  
 11 law. *American Acad. Of Pediatrics v. Lungren*, 16 Cal.4th 307, 327-28 (1997). Under the state  
 12 law, Boy Scout “volunteer ineligibility files” have been found to be “manifestly” protected.  
 13 *Juarez v. Boy Scouts of America, Inc.*, 81 Cal.App.4th 377, 390-91 (2000) (finding “manifestly  
 14 within the [California] Constitution’s protected area of privacy” certain “records maintained by  
 15 the Scouts (1) to identify individuals who have been determined to be ‘unfit’ in case they try to  
 16 register as scouting volunteers in the future; and (2) to document information as to why an  
 individual was declared ineligible in the event he should challenge that determination.”)

17 134. Furthermore, California courts have also found polygraph tests implicate personal  
 18 privacy. *See, e.g., Long Beach City Employees Ass’n v. City of Long Beach*, 41 Cal.3d 937, 956  
 19 (1986) (California public employees cannot be compelled to undergo a polygraph examination as  
 20 condition of employment); *see also White v. Davis* 13 Cal.3d 757 (1975) (opinion cited by *Long*  
 21 *Beach City Employees Ass’n* and noting that the state constitutional privacy right embraces the  
 22 importance of mental privacy, such as privacy of thoughts and emotions). Analogously, a  
 23 plaintiff’s mental health records have also been found protected by the California constitution.  
 24 *Susan S. v. Israels*, 55 Cal.App.4th 1290, 1299 (1997) (plaintiff stated sufficient state  
 25 constitutional privacy claim where defendant read and disseminated mental health records  
 26 knowing the information contained highly sensitive and embarrassing information which caused  
 emotional distress to plaintiff).

27 135. In the present case, as a general matter, Su had a legally protected privacy interest  
 28 in an investigative determination by United States agencies that he is a “security risk.” *Cf.*

1 *United States Dep't of Justice v. Reporters Comm. for Freedom of the Press*, 489 U.S. 749, 780  
 2 (1989) (“a third party’s request for law enforcement records or information about a private  
 3 citizen can reasonably be expected to invade that citizen’s privacy”); *Juarez, supra*, 81  
 4 Cal.App.4th at 390-91 (right of privacy in Boy Scouts’ investigative files). Su also had a legally  
 5 protected privacy interest in the investigative determination by United States agencies that he  
 6 allegedly failed a polygraph test, and details about his performance on the polygraph test. *Ibid.*;  
 7 *Susan S., supra*, 55 Cal.App.4th at 1299; *see Long Beach City Employees Ass’n*, 41 Cal.3d at 956  
 8 (privacy interest as to polygraph); *see also White, supra*, 13 Cal.3d 757 (1975) (privacy interest  
 in thoughts and emotions).

9 136. Su had a legally protected privacy interest in the investigative determination by  
 10 federal agencies that Su allegedly: (1) threatened security based on something he did at his  
 11 previous place of employment, (2) accepted money from a foreign government and then lied  
 12 about it, and (3) that his debarment was in connection with HSPD-12 or the Foreign Intelligence  
 13 Surveillance Act. *See United States Dep't of Justice, supra*, 489 U.S. at 780; *Juarez, supra*, 81  
 14 Cal.App.4th at 390-91.

15 137. Su also had a legally protected privacy interest in an investigative determination  
 16 by federal agencies that his debarment was triggered or related to issues related to his badge  
 17 application. *See United States Dep't of Justice, supra*, 489 U.S. at 780; *Juarez, supra*, 81  
 18 Cal.App.4th at 390-91; *Pettus v. Cole*, 49 Cal.App.4th 402, 441 (1996) (employee had California  
 19 constitutional privacy interest in his “social history of his life from the time of his birth, with his  
 family of origin, through a marriage and divorce, to the present . . .”).

20 138. Su’s privacy interests were particularly strong given his Chinese heritage, and the  
 21 Government’s statement that Su took money from a foreign government and denied doing so.

22 139. Furthermore, in the present case, the United States has effectively conceded that  
 23 each of the disclosures concerned private information. Dolci admitted he testified in his  
 24 deposition that he “cannot believe” he would tell people that Su was security risk. “That would  
 25 have been incredibly foolish of me. I didn’t need to say that.” (Dolci, 252:16-23 (emphasis  
 26 added)) Moreover, Hipskind was told at the interim security briefing that he could not tell the  
 27 staff anything about the May 22, 2008, FBI memorandum. (Hipskind, 346:16-25) According to  
 28 Silverman, an employer is not entitled to details concerning the removal of a contractor.

1 (Silverman, 679:14-25) Other than the June 24, 2008, meeting where he served the debarment  
2 letter on Su, Silverman testified he never told anyone Su was considered to be a security risk.  
3 Silverman would never tell anyone because it is “nobody’s business.” (Silverman, 676:18-  
4 677:9) Similarly, Waddell testified: “Outside individuals did not have a ‘need to know’ the  
5 results, and as a CI [counter-intelligence] agent, I would certainly not divulge that information to  
6 anyone who did not have a need to know.” (Waddell, 616:14-22)

7 140. With regard to the June 24, 2008, debarment letter, Dolci considered Su to be a  
8 security risk based on information in the FBI memoranda, which were classified. Dolci could  
9 not divulge the contents of the memoranda unless the person being informed had the appropriate  
10 security clearance and a need to know. “The members of the UARC staff did not have the  
11 appropriate security clearance the need to know information in the FBI memoranda.” (Dolci,  
12 234:23-235:24) Before the July 3, 2008, meeting, when Hogle asked why Su was being  
13 debarred, Dolci answered that he “couldn’t speak to that.” According to Dolci, it would have  
14 been inappropriate to tell Hogle why he thought Su was a security risk. (Dolci, 237:3-238:3)

15 141. The disclosed information also represents a form of Personally Identifiable  
16 Information (“PII”). Dolci admitted it was the responsibility of Protective Services to safeguard  
17 PII. (Dolci, 156:18-157:1) Dolci further agreed that NASA Security had a special responsibility  
18 to protect personal information from loss and misuse. (Dolci, 158:3-13) PII is defined by NASA  
19 as “any information maintained by NASA that can be used to uniquely identify an individual.”  
20 (Dolci, 160:6-20 and Exh. 32) Protected PII includes the combination of a person’s name with  
21 (1) medical, financial, or criminal records about that person, or (2) employment information,  
22 including ratings and disciplinary action. (Dolci, 160:16-161:7; Exh. 32)

23 142. Furthermore, information included in an e-QIP application is protected by the  
24 Privacy Act. (Dolci, 175:23-176:1) Dolci met with Hogle before Su was debarred to discuss the  
25 FBI investigation. At the time, when Hogle asked why Su was being investigated, Dolci said he  
26 could not speak to the case or the details of the case. Dolci testified there were three reasons he  
27 could not do so: (1) it was a classified case; (2) speaking of it could have jeopardized Dolci’s  
28 security clearance; and (3) he’s always concerned for the individual. (Dolci, 220:18-221:6)

143. Moreover, Dolci testified he did not tell the UARC staff that Su was considered to  
be a security risk in 2006 because they had no “need to know.” “It would have been



1 inappropriate. So unless you have a need to know, you just don't share any information that's  
 2 inappropriate to share. It's the Privacy Act." (Dolci, 229:3-13) Even if Dolci considered Su to  
 3 be "an imminent threat to national security," or if he thought that Su was putting the interests of  
 4 the United States or NASA at risk, he would not have notified UARC staff because they did not  
 5 have a "need to know." (Dolci, 230:13-20) Indeed, Hipskind needed a security clearance so he  
 6 could be told that (1) the FBI had conducted an investigation; (2) the FBI determined that Su was  
 7 a security risk; (3) Dolci received a memo from the FBI; and (4) the polygraph test showed  
 8 deception. (Dolci, 248:12-23; Hipskind 347:1-7)

9 144. In addition, the contents of the 2006 FBI memorandum (Exh. 62) are "not to be  
 10 distributed outside of your agency." The second page of the document requests that NASA only  
 11 advise individuals with the appropriate security clearance and an absolute need to know. Dolci  
 12 admits he could only share the fact that the FBI considered Su to be a security risk "with people  
 13 who had the appropriate security clearance and an absolute need to know." (Dolci, 231:21-  
 232:15, Exh. 62)

14 145. Thus, as a matter of law and under the particular facts of this case, Su had a well-  
 15 established right to privacy in the information at issue.

16 *B. Su Had a Reasonable Expectation of Privacy Under the Circumstances.*

17 146. The reasonableness of an expectation of privacy is a mixed question of law and  
 18 fact. Factors affecting the extent of a privacy interest include advanced notice of impending  
 19 action, customs, societal norms and practices, physical settings surrounding particular activities,  
 20 and the presence or absence of opportunities for voluntary consent. *Hill, supra*, 7 Cal.4th at 36-  
 21 37. This element contemplates an inquiry into whether there is something in the particular  
 22 circumstances in which an alleged intrusion of privacy arises that demonstrates plaintiff has no  
 23 reasonable expectation of privacy in that context, so that the intrusion would not violate the state  
 constitution. *American Acad. of Pediatrics, supra*, 16 Cal.4th at 338.

24 147. Under the applicable state law, "[a] 'reasonable' expectation of privacy is an  
 25 objective entitlement founded on broadly based and widely accepted community norms." *Hill*,  
 26 *supra*, 7 Cal.4th at 37; *Susan S., supra*, 55 Cal.App.4th at 1295. Here, Su had a reasonable  
 27 expectation of privacy in these matters because he was not aware of the government's  
 28 conclusions about him (Su, 109:12-22); he was not aware the government would communicate



1 with his coworkers about the investigation (Su, 109:20-110:1); he did not divulge information to  
2 coworkers (Myers, 472:4-12; Hogle, 388:6-12; Coffland, 525:18-20; 546:5-7); he was not a  
3 federal employee and had no access to confidential or secret information (Myers, 490:8-10,  
4 Fegan, 552:24-553:1; Dominguez, 626:15-16; 634:8-9; 634:24); he participated in the FBI's  
5 investigation in good faith (Su, 83:11-20; 84:5-8); he had no reason to believe the Government  
6 would take this course of action (Su, 84:15-24); and the recipients of the information about him,  
7 themselves, had no particular security clearance to hear the information. (Dolci, 235:21-24;  
8 Hogle, 383:16-20; 400:10-17)

9 148. Su's fellow contractors' shock and disbelief at what they heard at the July 3,  
10 2008, meeting further confirmed that Su did not previously inform them of the allegations  
11 against him, and that reasonable people found the information shocking.

12 149. Su further had a reasonable expectation of privacy insofar as he was not informed  
13 why the government designated him a security risk, nor given an opportunity to address the  
14 accusations. (Su, 104:9-25; 105:20-106:1; 114:24-115:1; 135:4-7; Dolci, 255:5-10) Indeed, no  
15 charges have ever been filed against Su, and he has no criminal record. Su also had a reasonable  
16 expectation that the government, in conducting a confidential background investigation of him,  
17 would not divulge to third parties purported determinations made during the investigation.

18 150. Moreover, the Government's testimony at trial reinforced Su's reasonable belief  
19 in the private nature of the information. Hipskind was told at the interim security briefing that he  
20 could not tell the staff anything about the May 22, 2008, FBI memorandum. (Hipskind, 346:16-  
21 25) Dolci would not have instructed Silverman to give copies of the June 24, 2008, debarment  
22 letter to Hogle or Myers because it was not appropriate. (Dolci, 236:19-237:2) Dolci knew he  
23 "had to protect [Su's] privacy." At various times Dolci told people he could not share  
24 information about Su because it was "classified" or "confidential" or "sensitive." (Dolci, 256:5-  
25 13) When Hogle originally asked why Su was being debarred, Dolci said he could not respond.  
26 (Dolci, 297:16-22) Hipskind first spoke with Dolci on June 24, 2008, to find out "the nature of  
27 the debarment action." At that time, Dolci said he could not disclose the reason. (Hipskind,  
28 327:12-328:9)

151. Furthermore, Waddell keeps the original signed version of the debarment letter in  
a security container. Waddell testified: "It's a 3-position dial GSA approved five-drawer

1 security container that houses classified, and in this case, sensitive but unclassified, information.”  
 2 Waddell keeps the letter in the secured container to protect Su’s privacy. (Waddell, 615:14-  
 3 616:13)

4 152. Ultimately, a plaintiff does not have to prove that he or she had a “complete  
 5 expectation of privacy;” rather, “[p]rivacy for purposes of the intrusion tort must be evaluated  
 6 with respect to the identity of the alleged intruder and the nature of the intrusion.” *Sanders v.*  
 7 *American Broadcasting Companies*, 20 Cal.4th 907, 917-918 (Cal. 1999). Here, the Court finds  
 8 that the facts and circumstances strongly support a finding of Su’s reasonable expectation of  
 9 privacy.

10 C. *The Government’s Conduct Represented Serious Invasions of Su’s Protected Privacy*  
 11 *Interests.*

12 153. The issue of whether a serious invasion has occurred is a mixed question of law  
 13 and fact. An actionable invasion of privacy under the state constitution must be sufficiently  
 14 serious in its nature, scope, and actual or potential impact to constitute an egregious breach of the  
 15 social norms underlying the privacy right. *See Hill, supra*, 7 Cal.4th at 37. For example, the  
 16 disclosure to an employer of information contained in psychiatrists’ reports concerning an  
 17 employee’s past and present drinking habits, and strongly held views about racism among his  
 18 coworkers and company management, was found to be a serious intrusion into an employee’s  
 19 right of informational privacy. *Pettus, supra*, 49 Cal.App.4th at 445.

20 154. *Loder v. City of Glendale*, 14 Cal.4th 846, 895, n.22 (1997), explains that the  
 21 “serious invasion” element is intended to screen out intrusions on privacy that are de minimis or  
 22 insignificant. Thus, for example, in *American Acad. of Pediatrics, supra*, 16 Cal.4th at 338–339,  
 23 a statute requiring parental consent before a minor may obtain an abortion was found to seriously  
 24 invade privacy because it was more than an insignificant intrusion. *Id.*

25 155. As discussed above, the Court finds the Government severely invaded Su’s  
 26 privacy by providing gratuitous and salacious details about the federal investigation.  
 27 Furthermore, as NASA was a party to the joint investigation (*see* Exh. 62), and NASA security  
 28 improperly made disclosures during the investigation, the investigation itself was unreasonably  
 intrusive on Su’s personal life, a violation of Su’s constitutional privacy rights distinct from the  
 disclosures. *See Noble v. Sears, Roebuck and Co.*, 33 Cal.App.3d 654, 660 (1973)  
 (investigations that are unreasonably intrusive violate the California constitutional right to

1 privacy).

2 156. In sum, Su had established privacy interests in the matters discussed, and a  
3 reasonable expectation of privacy. Because the Government's disclosures represented severe  
4 invasions, the Court finds the United States liable for multiple invasions of Su's privacy.

5 The Government's Asserted Defenses Are Unavailing.

6 157. The Government argues that it cannot be held liable for the disclosures at issue  
7 because (a) it had a legitimate competing interest in making the disclosures, or (b) the  
8 communications were protected by the state "common interest" privilege.

9 A. The Government Has Failed to Establish A Competing or Compelling Interest  
10 Sufficient to Justify the Invasions of Su's Privacy.

11 158. Under state law, a violation of privacy will not be found if the invasion of privacy  
12 is outweighed by other important interests. *Hill, supra*, 7 Cal.4th at 34.

13 159. As an initial matter, the parties disagree over the burden needed for defendant to  
14 establish a sufficient, countervailing interest. Plaintiff contends defendant must show a  
15 "compelling interest" to justify an invasion of privacy and must also show an absence of an  
16 alternative means to serve that interest. *See, e.g., White, supra*, 13 Cal.3d at 776. The court in  
17 *Hill* analyzed its decision in *White* and found this test, as opposed to a less burdensome  
18 balancing test, applies where cases involve an obvious invasion of an interest fundamental to  
19 personal autonomy. *Hill, supra*, 7 Cal.4th at 34.

20 160. The Court finds the higher, "compelling interest" standard advocated by plaintiff  
21 applies in the present case because the violations constituted "misusing information gathered for  
22 one purpose in order to serve other purposes." *White, supra*, 13 Cal.3d 774. The compelling  
23 interest standard is also appropriate because defendants disclosed results of Su's polygraph test,  
24 and thereby invaded Su's personal autonomy. *See id.* at 774 (recognizing privacy of thoughts  
25 and emotions).

26 161. Based on the evidence presented at trial, the Court concludes the disclosures  
27 about Su constituted invasions of his personal autonomy. Therefore, the compelling interest  
28 standard applies, and the Government must demonstrate a compelling interest in making the  
disclosures, as well as an absence of alternative means. The Government has failed to meet both  
of these requirements.

162. General co-worker morale or "a generalized interest in the integrity of the work

1 force” is not a compelling interest sufficient to justify a serious invasion of privacy. *See*  
 2 *American Federation of Labor v. Unemployment Ins. Appeals Bd.*, 23 Cal.App.4th 51, 66 (1994)  
 3 (“A generalized interest in the integrity of the work force has not been found sufficient to  
 4 overcome privacy interests in drug testing cases.”); *Soroka v. Dayton Hudson Corp.*, 18  
 5 Cal.App.4th 1200, 1214 (1991) (generalized concern about employee fitness found “not  
 6 sufficient to constitute a compelling interest, nor does it satisfy the nexus requirement.”)

7 163. Moreover, even if general employee morale were a compelling interest—and it is  
 8 not—defendant cannot show the disclosures about Su had any value in advancing this interest.  
 9 NPR 1600.1 is informative in this regard. Under this regulation, if a contractor’s badge is  
 10 revoked, the employer is not to be informed of the basis for the revocation. (Exh. 1022,  
 11 NPR1600.1, section 4.9.6.2)

12 164. Furthermore, even if the Court were to find the disclosures did not constitute  
 13 invasions of interests fundamental to personal autonomy, and therefore implicate the lesser  
 14 balancing standard, the defense is not availing.

15 165. The competing interest defense involves the use of a balancing test that compares  
 16 the specifically identified privacy interests of the plaintiff with legitimate, competing, and  
 17 countervailing nonprivacy interests asserted by the defendant. *Hill, supra*, 7 Cal.4th at 37–38  
 18 (applying test to NCAA drug testing program for student athletes and finding no violation due to  
 19 the competing interests of safeguarding integrity of sports and protecting student health). In  
 20 balancing interests under the competing interest defense, the relative importance of an asserted  
 21 interest depends on its proximity to the central functions of a particular public or private  
 22 enterprise. *Hill, supra*, 7 Cal.4th at 38.

23 166. The disclosure to an employer of highly personal information contained in  
 24 protected reports has been found unjustified under California law. In *Pettus*, an employer  
 25 retained a psychiatrist to evaluate an employee for disability leave, and the employer needed a  
 26 detailed report to formulate a plan for getting the employee back to work as soon as possible.  
 27 *Pettus, supra*, 49 Cal.App.4th at 445-446. The Court found the employer’s proclaimed interests  
 28 did not outweigh the plaintiff’s privacy interests. *Id.*

167. In addition, Su has rebutted defendant’s competing interest assertion by showing  
 there were feasible and effective alternatives to the defendant’s conduct that would have a lesser

1 impact on privacy interests. *Hill, supra*, 7 Cal.4th at 40. Specifically, NPR 1600.1 provides  
 2 alternative procedures for general badge revocation which could have been followed in this case.  
 3 NPR 1600.1, and NID 13.1.2, expressly state that when an individual is denied a badge, the  
 4 employer is not to be informed of the basis for the denial. (Exh. 1022)

5 168. Thus, even if the Court were to apply the lower “competing interest” test, Su’s  
 6 substantial interest in his privacy greatly outweighed general employee concerns, and the defense  
 7 is therefore unavailing. Furthermore, as a separate ground, the defense is unavailing because the  
 8 Government had a feasible, less invasive alternative to its course of action.

9 169. Ultimately, the United States cannot satisfy the balancing test as it has failed to  
 10 identify a competing interest. The United States put forth no evidence at trial to show that the  
 11 information was furnished for security reasons. (*See Dolci*, 253:17-254:19 (“I did not believe  
 12 that Su posed a threat once he was debarred.”); *Silverman*, 691:4-8 (Silverman had no concern  
 13 that Su might try to re-enter the NASA Ames premises after his badge was revoked)) Rather, the  
 14 United States argued at trial that the information was provided to improve employee morale.  
 15 UARC supervisor Jeff Myers, however, testified that Su’s debarment did not impact the ability  
 16 of the UARC employees to complete their job responsibilities. (Myers, 502:21-23)

17 170. Because there was no compelling or competing interest in sharing the information  
 18 at issue, the defense does not protect defendant. Moreover, even if there had been a compelling  
 19 or competing interest to protect—and there was not—the Government has not shown an absence  
 20 of alternative means to address such an interest, and NASA regulations illustrate alternative  
 21 means that would not have violated Su’s privacy.

22 **B. The Common Interest Defense In Unavailing.**

23 171. California Civil Code Section 47(c) provides a qualified privilege for  
 24 communications between interested persons. Specifically, the privilege protects communications:

25 to a person interested therein, (1) by one who is also interested, or (2) by one who  
 26 stands in such a relation to the person interested as to afford a reasonable ground  
 27 for supposing the motive for the communication to be innocent, or (3) who is  
 28 requested by the person interested to give the information. Civ. Code § 47(c).

172. The United States has the burden of proving that the statement was made on a  
 privileged occasion. *Kashian v. Harriman*, 98 Cal.App. 4th 892, 915 (2002) (“The defendant has

1 the initial burden of showing the allegedly defamatory statement was made on a privileged  
2 occasion . . . .”).

3 173. To be protected, the statement must be one “‘reasonably calculated to further that  
4 interest.’” *Cuenca v. Safeway San Francisco Employees Federal Credit Union*, 180 Cal.App.3d  
5 985, 995 (1986), quoting *Kelly v. General Telephone Co.*, 136 Cal.App.3d 278, 285 (1982).  
6 “The standard is one of reasonableness, not of necessity.” *SDV/ACCI, Inc. v. AT&T Corp.*, 522  
7 F.3d 955, 962 (9th Cir. 2008). Once a foundation for the privilege is established, a plaintiff can  
8 rebut the presumption and defeat protection of the privilege with proof the statement was made  
9 with malice. *Lundquist v. Reusser*, 7 Cal.4th 1193, 1208 (1994).

10 174. Here, as a threshold matter, the United States has not carried its burden to show  
11 there was a cognizable interest in the subject matter. The Government argues the statements  
12 were never made to begin with. (*See Dolci*, 252:16-23 (stating it would have been foolish to  
13 identify Su as a security risk to his co-workers)) Moreover, NASA security acknowledged there  
14 was no concern that Su posed a security risk after debarment. (*Dolci*, 253:17-254:19; *Silverman*,  
15 691:4-8) To the extent defendant claims the statements needed to be made for morale purposes,  
16 UARC manager Jeff Myers testified the debarment was not impacting the ability of the UARC  
17 employees to complete their job responsibilities. (*Myers*, 502:21-23)

18 175. The United States has not demonstrated that the statements at issue were  
19 reasonably calculated to further any interest, including morale. *Deaile v. General Telephone Co.*  
20 *of California*, 40 Cal.App. 3d 841, 847 (1974) (to be protected by the privilege, the  
21 communication must be one reasonably calculated to further the common interest); *Gardner v.*  
22 *Shasta County*, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 81047, 11-17 (E.D. Cal. Nov. 1, 2007) (“Defendants have  
23 also not established that the allegedly defamatory statements made at various meetings consisted  
24 of matters material to the “‘interest sought to be protected.” [citation] Although the general  
25 purpose of a particular meeting may provide privilege for communication consistent with that  
26 same goal, statements made in that meeting that are not relevant to that general end are not  
27 similarly privileged.”)

28 176. Furthermore, the common interest privilege has been found not to apply where, in  
disclosing the reasons behind a termination to employees, an employer engages in excessive  
publication or includes immaterial matters that do not have a bearing on the interest being



1 protected. *Deaile, supra*, 40 Cal.App.3d at p. 846 (“inclusion of immaterial matter which have  
 2 no bearing on the interest sought to be protected” may defeat the privilege); *SDV/ACCI, Inc.,*  
 3 *supra*, 522 F.3d at 962. In *Payton v. City of Santa Clara*, 132 Cal.App.3d 152, 153-54 (1982),  
 4 an employer wrote a memorandum addressed to plaintiff detailing the reasons for his termination  
 5 and posted the document, without plaintiff’s knowledge or consent, on the bulletin board in the  
 6 employee break room that about 40 people used. *Id.* Similarly, here, the debarment letter and its  
 7 contents were shared with Su’s employer, and his co-workers were subsequently told, without  
 8 his knowledge, that he was a security risk, and had taken money from another government and  
 then denied it.

9 177. In the present case, a particularly egregious factor was Su’s inability to address  
 10 the allegations against him in an effective way. Because the statements were colored to the  
 11 detriment of Su, and he had no meaningful opportunity to know what was said about him, to  
 12 whom, and by whom, the invasions were particularly excessive. See *Snively v. Record*  
 13 *Publishing Co.*, 185 Cal. 565, 578 (1921) (*disapproved of on other grounds in Brown v. Kelly*  
 14 *Broadcasting Co., et al.*, 48 Cal.3d 711 (1989)) (if the facts are exaggerated, overdrawn, or  
 15 colored to the detriment of the plaintiff, or are not stated fully and fairly with respect to the  
 16 plaintiff, the privilege may be lost).

17 178. In *Cuenca, supra*, the plaintiff claimed he was defamed when his employer  
 18 circulated written reports to the supervisory committee and board of directors stating that he was  
 19 receiving kickbacks, incorrectly reporting his hours, and keeping irregular office hours. *Cuenca,*  
 20 *supra*, 180 Cal.App.3d 985, 996 (1986). While the court ultimately found that the disclosure at  
 21 issue was afforded protection by the common interest privilege, it highlighted the fact that to be  
 22 protected, the statement must be one reasonably calculated to further the protected interest. In  
 23 finding the privilege applied, the court stressed that the report was not widely distributed among  
 24 employees, but was limited to members of the supervisory committee for approval and to the  
 25 board of directors. The *Cuenca* court also commented that the disclosure was only made to those  
 26 who had a direct interest in the matter, as the statements concerned plaintiff’s fitness as a  
 manager.

27 179. Relying on the principles espoused in *Cuenca*, the court in *Eastech Electronics v.*  
 28 *E&S Intern. Enterprises, Inc.*, 2009 WL 322242, held that defendant, a distributor, abused the



1 common interest privilege by including inflammatory and irrelevant material that unreasonably  
 2 disparaged plaintiff in a letter to a third party. The court found that the letter contained  
 3 “substantial gratuitous, false and negative information about Plaintiffs that went well beyond the  
 4 response called for by [the third party’s] payment inquiries,” including statements that  
 5 “[plaintiff] has continually failed to fulfill their commitments under the agreement,” and that one  
 6 client became “very upset” and “extremely aggravated” at some alleged failures of plaintiff. The  
 7 court acknowledged that defendant was privileged in responding to the third party’s payment  
 8 inquiry and assumed the truth of defendant’s assertions, however, ultimately the court felt that  
 9 the statements went far beyond what was reasonable to protect the common interest.

10 180. In addition, specific rules governing issues of privilege and privacy may prevail  
 11 over general rules permitting discovery. For example, in *Pettus, supra*, 49 Cal.App.4th at 438,  
 12 the court found a psychiatrist’s disclosure of personal medical information regarding an  
 13 employee to the employer was not privileged under general privilege of communication between  
 14 two interested parties, as that privilege was superseded by Confidentiality of Medical  
 15 Information Act. Dolci used NPR 1600.1 to determine policies and procedures he used in the  
 16 work he did at NASA Ames. He relied upon 1600.1 to determine what restrictions would be  
 17 imposed on Su. (Dolci, 264:7-16) Dolci reviewed chapter 4 of NPR 1600.1 because section  
 18 1.4.1 did not provide information “on how to inform ... the individual’s supervisor.” That  
 19 section “at least tells you how to provide information on the debarment to a supervisor.” (Dolci,  
 20 276:1-12)

21 181. Even if any subject disclosures were otherwise covered by the common interest  
 22 privilege—and they were not—if a communicator acts with malice, the statement is not protected  
 23 by California Civil Code section 47(c). *Kashian, supra*, 98 Cal.App.4th at 914-915, citing  
 24 *Brown, supra*, 48 Cal.3d at 723, fn. 7. In the context of an action for invasion of privacy, to  
 25 determine whether there is malice, courts focus “on the defendant’s attitude toward the plaintiff’s  
 26 privacy, not toward the truth or falsity of the material published.” *Cantrell v. Forest City*  
 27 *Publishing Co.*, 419 U.S. 245, 252 (1974). No showing of ill will is required. *See id.* The  
 28 deletion of a crucial fact could reflect an indifference to the impression being given to the  
 recipient of the information and support an inference of malice. (See *Montandon v. Triangle*  
*Publications, Inc.*, 45 Cal.App.3d 938, 948-949 (1975))

182. In this case, the United States showed a reckless attitude toward Su's privacy. Su called Dolci about the debarment, with questions about why it had happened. Dolci could not answer these types of questions. The phone call was uncomfortable for Dolci because Su was obviously upset. According to Dolci, Su was wondering "what was going on and why." Since Dolci could not answer, he decided to end the call. (Dolci, 242:1-243:12) Despite knowing Su's position that he was not aware of why he had been debarred, Dolci chose to tell his co-workers that Su knew why he had been debarred, implying that Su was both a security risk and a liar.

183. In addition, when the statements were communicated to Su's co-workers, there was no assurance Su would be able to remain employed with UARC, making them all the more reckless. Su was given a Notice of Termination on July 3, 2008. (Exh. 4) After debarment, NASA management objected to Su's continued employment. (Coffland, 531:15-20) Hogle recalls around January, 2009, individuals at NASA were surprised that Su was still working with UARC. (Hogle, 420:16-19) Hogle heard from Hipskind that the Center Director had "made the statement that he was surprised that Su was still an employee." (Hogle, 421:6-8)

184. Dolci told the UARC managers Su could no longer work on the UARC contract. Hogle wrote an email relaying that: "According to Bob, Haiping cannot be retained on the UARC contract." (Myers 486:11-13; Exh. 138) Myers testified it was his understanding at the time of debarment that, according to Dolci, Haiping could not be retained on the UARC contract. (Myers, 486:11-15) Hogle required that NASA give him something in writing before the University of California would terminate Su. (Coffland, 532:18-21)

185. Because the disclosures were not reasonably related to a legitimate interest, or were made with reckless disregard for Su's privacy, the common interest privilege does not apply.

The Privacy Violations Caused Severe, Legally Cognizable Harm to Su.

A. Su Suffered Severe Emotional Distress from the Privacy Invasions.

186. The Court credits the testimony of plaintiff, his wife Sharyn Su, and his colleagues as to the severe distress caused to him by the invasions of his privacy.

187. On July 3, 2008, Su met with Myers at a location off of the NASA Ames premises. It was at this meeting that Myers provided Su with a termination letter. (Su, 106:5-12, Exh. 4) At the same meeting, Su learned about the meeting held earlier that day by Dolci. When

1 Su heard about the meeting and the fact that UARC employees had attended, he was confused  
2 and crestfallen: he did not understand why such a meeting took place, especially when he himself  
3 did not know what was going on. (Su, 108:23-109:22)

4 188. Su felt helpless and became depressed and miserable. (Sharyn Su, 762:16-763:7)  
5 He had nightmares and began grinding his teeth. (Sharyn Su, 763:15-764:1) Due to his lack of  
6 sleep, he began drinking substantial amounts of coffee so he could stay awake and concentrate  
7 on his work. (Sharyn Su, 765:16-23; 766:13-15) He attributes the coffee as a way to cope with  
8 depression and focus on work to avoid thinking about the security risk determination. (Su,  
9 115:9-24)

10 189. The Court finds the security risk disclosures caused Su severe emotional distress.  
11 Su felt humiliated and, as a result, he lost his self-confidence. (Sharyn Su, 767:4-10; 769:5-6)  
12 Su believes that the term security risk means you are not good, that you are hiding something or  
13 that you are a spy. (Su, 118:15-119:13) When Su learned that people thought he took money  
14 from a foreign government, he was hurt and confused. He worries that people think of him  
15 differently. (Sharyn Su, 772:1-4) Su believes that people think he is connected with taking  
16 something, that he is a bad guy. (Su, 118:7-14) Su is concerned that people think of him in that  
17 light. (Su, 114:17-115:8; 118:15-119:13) This is something Su believes you can never get rid  
18 of, something he has to live with for the rest of his life. (Su, 118:15-119:13)

19 190. The Court credits the testimony of Su and other witnesses that, before the  
20 disclosures, Su was very social with his coworkers, and his professional relationships were  
21 strong. (Su, 50:13-16) However, Su no longer fraternizes with his coworkers. (Fegan, 564:4-  
22 12; Coffland, 517:24-25; 518:2; Myers, 471:14-16) He has also lost interest in communicating  
23 with old friends and simply does not want to talk to them. (Su, 116:3-15; 122:24-123:10;  
24 123:20-124:6; Sharyn Su, 763:15-764:1; 764:22-765:5) The statements about Su have caused  
25 him to remove himself from interactions with anyone outside the home. (Sharyn Su, 767:4-10)  
26 Su no longer trusts people and does not want to make any new friends because he does not think  
27 he can trust anyone. (Sharyn Su, 768:3-8; 768:15-18) Su no longer wants to see anyone and has  
28 completely isolated himself. (Sharyn Su, 773:3-9; 765:12-13)

191. The allegations against Su have not only affected Su's relationship with friends,  
coworkers, and the outside world, but have also affected his relationship with his family. Su's

1 wife, Sharyn Su, said that Su cannot stop thinking about what happened, and has changed  
 2 severely as a result. (Su, 122:24-123:10) Su no longer wants to be in situations where there are  
 3 crowds because he does not want to see people. (Sharyn Su, 764:12-21) He no longer goes  
 4 shopping with his wife and has not gone on a vacation since the events of June and July, 2008.  
 5 (Su, 116:3-15; Sharyn Su, 764:12-21) Su's lack of interest in all social interactions and hobbies  
 6 has caused him to bury himself in his work. (Sharyn Su, 765:14-15)

7 B. Su May Recover Damages For His Injuries.

8 192. The right of privacy fundamentally concerns one's own peace of mind and any  
 9 injury flowing therefrom is mental and subjective. *Operating Engineers Local 3 v. Johnson*, 110  
 10 Cal.App.4th 180, 187 (2003); *Selleck v. Globe Int'l, Inc.*, 166 Cal.App.3d 1123, 1135 (1985).  
 11 An individual who has established a cause of action for invasion of that privacy is entitled to  
 12 recover damages arising therefrom. Restatement Second of Torts, section 652H. In *Time, Inc. v.*  
 13 *Hill*, 385 U.S. 374, 384, fn. 9 (1967), the court stated: "[i]n the 'right of privacy' cases the  
 14 primary damage is the mental distress from having been exposed to public view, although injury  
 15 to reputation may be an element bearing upon such damage." See *Miller v. National*  
 16 *Broadcasting Co.*, 187 Cal.App.3d 1463, 1484 (1986) (damages flowing from an invasion of  
 17 privacy would logically include an award for mental suffering and anguish). There is, however,  
 18 a distinction between a cause of action for invasion of privacy and one for defamation. The  
 19 former "is not injury to the character or reputation but a direct wrong of a personal character  
 20 resulting in injury to the feelings without regard to any effect which the publication may have on  
 21 the property, business, pecuniary interest, or the standing of the individual in the community."  
 22 *Selleck, supra*, 166 Cal.App.3d at 1135.

23 193. It is well-established that the injury to one's peace of mind encompasses the  
 24 emotional and mental distress suffered by virtue of an invasion of the right to privacy. Courts  
 25 have recognized that this type of damage does not require actual out-of-pocket loss. *Diaz v.*  
 26 *Oakland Tribune, Inc.*, 139 Cal.App.3d 118, 137 (1983). Mental and emotional distress damages  
 27 can encompass feelings of anxiety, embarrassment, humiliation, shame, depression,  
 28 powerlessness, and anguish, among others. *Operating Engineers Local 3, supra*, 110  
 Cal.App.4th at 187; see also *Miller v. National Broadcasting Co.*, 187 Cal.App.3d 1463, 1485  
 (1986). The resulting damage can also include "personal humiliation" and "mental anguish and

1 suffering.” *Diaz, supra*, 139 Cal.App.3d at 137. In *Miller, supra*, 187 Cal.App.3d at 1485, the  
 2 court acknowledged that these types of damages are the subject of legitimate inquiry by a jury  
 3 when the consequences and events which flowed from the actionable wrong are taken into  
 4 consideration.

5 194. The Government’s violations of Su’s privacy have caused Su severe mental and  
 6 emotional distress. As a result of the disclosures made by the Government to Su’s colleagues, Su  
 7 has experienced weight loss, sleep deprivation, inability to concentrate, helplessness, stress,  
 8 nightmares, teeth grinding, headaches, humiliation, misery, depression, loss of self-confidence,  
 9 decreased energy, and lack of a desire to experience things, which has caused him to withdraw  
 10 from life. (Su, 114:17-115:8; 115:9-24; Sharyn Su, 762:16-763:7; 772:14-18; 763:15-764:1;  
 11 765:16-23; 766:13-15; 767:4-10; 769:5-6) Su has isolated himself from his colleagues and his  
 12 friends. He is no longer interested in socializing with colleagues and friends that he had and he  
 13 certainly is not interested in meeting new people. (Fegan, 564:4-12; Coffland, 517:24-25; 518:2;  
 14 Myers, 471:14-16; Su, 116:3-15; 122:24-123:10; 123:20-124:6; Sharyn Su, 763:15-764:1;  
 15 764:22-765:5; 767:4-10; 773:3-9; 765:12-13) Su no longer trusts people and does not want to  
 16 make any new friends because he does not think he can trust anyone. (Sharyn Su, 768:3-8;  
 768:15-18)

17 195. The security risk determination and the disclosures have also affected Su’s  
 18 relationship with his family. Su’s wife, Sharyn Su, said that the security risk determination is  
 19 something that Su cannot stop thinking about and Su has changed a lot as a result. (Su, 122:24-  
 20 123:10) Su no longer wants to be in situations where there are crowds because he does not want  
 21 to see people. (Sharyn Su, 764:12-21) He no longer goes shopping with his wife and has not  
 22 gone on a vacation since the security risk determination. (Su, 116:3-15; Sharyn Su, 764:12-21)  
 23 Su’s lack of interest in all social interactions and hobbies has caused him to bury himself in his  
 work. (Sharyn Su, 765:14-15)

24 196. The Government’s actions have caused Su to become a different person. Once a  
 25 bright, intelligent, pleasant, and confident man, Su is now a man that feels like he has no future,  
 26 someone whose career is ruined. Su feels like if he lost his job, he couldn’t find another one  
 27 with this label of security risk. (Sharyn Su, 767:15-19) He knows that if he needs to find  
 28 another job, he will have to disclose the fact of the security risk label. (Su, 116:8-117:9) This

1 has created uncertainty in Su's life, thereby adding to the mental and emotional distress suffered  
 2 by Su. *Id.* Su believes that this security risk label and the things people now know about him are  
 3 a fact of life that he can never get rid of, something he has to live with for the rest of his life.  
 4 (Su, 118:15-119:13)

5 197. The Court finds Su has sustained major and lasting emotional stress as a result of  
 6 the disclosures at issue. The type of harm and distress exhibited by Su as a result of the  
 7 Government's disclosures is precisely the type of harm courts have recognized as a basis for an  
 8 award of sizeable damages in a case involving an invasion of privacy. A trial court has  
 9 discretion in awarding damages in the nature of emotional and mental distress and such an award  
 10 should take into consideration the facts and the evidence demonstrating the injury to the  
 11 plaintiff. *People v. Smith* (2011) 198 Cal.App.4th 415, 435-436. This exercise of discretion is  
 12 given further credence by the fact that no fixed standard exists for deciding the amount of  
 13 damages for mental or emotional distress. CACI 1820; *Smith, supra*, 198 Cal.App.4th at 435.  
 14 Su should thus be awarded the entirety of his requested relief.

#### 14 Damages

15 198. Plaintiff is entitled to damages to be set by the Court for pecuniary losses, and  
 16 future lost work, as well as intangible elements such as pain and suffering, both mental and  
 17 physical; impairment of ability to work and labor; humiliation; embarrassment; fear of social  
 18 ostracism; anxiety or worry attributable to the injury; and mental distress.

19 199. The amount awarded by the Court for damages is \$ \_\_\_\_.

20 200. Plaintiff to be awarded fees and costs.

21  
 22 DATED: January 23, 2014

McMANIS FAULKNER

23  
 24 \_\_\_\_\_/s/

25 JAMES McMANIS  
 26 MICHAEL REEDY  
 27 TYLER ATKINSON  
 28 NEDA SHAKOORI

Attorneys for Plaintiff, DR. HAIPING SU

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on January 23, 2014, I electronically transmitted the aforementioned PLAINTIFF'S POST-TRIAL PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW to the Clerk of the Court's Office using the CM/ECF System for filing and transmittal of a Notice of Electronic Filing to the following registrants:

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